Claims

1-20 (canceled)

21. (currently amended) A medical data handling system, comprising:

a portable personal data device storing patient data comprising personal identification information and medical insurance information associated with a person;

a mobile data management system configured to read the personal data device and transmit the personal identification information and the medical insurance information to a medical treatment facility prior to the person's arrival at the medical treatment facility; and

a medical treatment facility computer configured to receive the personal identification information and the medical insurance information, determine approved medical procedures based on medical insurance coverage information for the person, and prepare an admission report including the personal identification information and the medical insurance information prior to the person's arrival at the medical treatment facility to facilitate admission of the associated person for treatment at the medical treatment facility.

22. (previously presented) The medical data handling system of claim 21, wherein the personal data device comprises a wallet-sized smartcard.

23. (previously presented) The medical data handling system of claim 21, wherein:

the personal identification information read from the personal data device and included in the admission report includes a photograph of the person to facilitate proper identification of the person upon arrival at the medical treatment facility.

24. (previously presented) The medical data handling system of claim 21, wherein:

the personal data device further stores medially relevant data concerning the associated person; and

the mobile data management system is configured to read and display the medially relevant data.

25. (previously presented) The medical data handling system of claim 21,
wherein the mobile data management system is further configured to:

receive medical device readings associated with the person taken while the
person is in transit to the hospital; and

transmit the medical device readings to the medical treatment facility computer
prior to the person's arrival at the medical treatment facility.

26. (previously presented) The medical data handling system of claim 21,
wherein:

the mobile data management system is further configured to receive data input
by an emergency medical technician attending to the person while the person is in
transit to the medical treatment facility and transmit that data to the medical treatment
facility computer prior to the person's arrival at the medical treatment facility; and

the medical facility computer is configured to include the data input by the
emergency medical technician in the admission report.

27. (currently amended) The medical data handling system of claim 21, wherein:
the medical insurance coverage information is stored on the portable personal
data device and transmitted from the mobile data management system to the medical
treatment facility computer prior to the person's arrival at the medical treatment facility.
the medical treatment facility computer is configured to obtain additional medical
data pertaining to the person from a secure medical data storage system, and include
that additional medical data in the admission report.

28. (currently amended) The medical data handling system of claim 21, wherein:
the patient data includes the identification of a remote computer system
computer associated with the person; and

the medical treatment facility computer is configured to obtain the medical
insurance coverage information from the remote computer system prior to the person's
arrival at the medical treatment facility. additional medical data pertaining to the person
from the computer associated with the person, and include that additional medical data
in the admission report.

29. (currently amended) The medical data handling system of claim 21, wherein:

the medical treatment facility computer is configured to approve the person for admission and transmit an admission approval response to the mobile data management system prior to the person's arrival at the medical treatment facility.

~~the patient data includes the identification of an insurance company computer;~~ ~~and~~

~~the medical treatment facility computer is configured to obtain additional medical data pertaining to the person from the insurance company computer, and include that additional medical data in the admission report.~~

30. (previously presented) The medical data handling system of claim 21, wherein:

the mobile data management system comprises a global positioning system device tracking the location of the ambulance;

data indicating the location of the ambulance is included in the data transmitted to the medical treatment facility; and

the medical treatment facility computer determines an estimated time of arrival of the ambulance at the hospital.

31. (previously presented) The medical data handling system of claim 21, wherein the patient data includes the person's name, gender, age, weight, blood type, physician's name, medical insurance information, emergency contact information, present medical conditions, and organ donor status.

32. (previously presented) The medical data handling system of claim 21, wherein:

the personal data device comprises a first data storage area comprising patient identification information and emergency medical treatment information accessible by the mobile data management system;

the personal data device comprises ~~an~~ a second data storage area comprising secured medical data that is not accessible by the mobile data management system;

the mobile data management system is configured to transmit the secured

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medical data to the medical treatment facility without accessing the secured medical data; and

the medical treatment facility computer is configured to access the secured medical data stored in the secured data storage.

33. (currently amended) A medical data handling system, comprising:

a portable personal data device storing patient data associated with a person comprising personal identification information, medical insurance information, and medically relevant information for the person;

a mobile data management system located on an ambulance comprising a data drive for reading the personal data device, a display for displaying at least a portion of the medically relevant information, and a data transmission device for transmitting a patient report including the personal identification information, medical insurance information, and the medically relevant information to a hospital while the ambulance is in transit to the hospital;

a medical treatment facility computer configured to receive the patient report, determine approved medical procedures based on medical insurance coverage information for the person, approve the person for admission, transmit an admission approval response to the mobile data management system, and prepare a hospital admission report including at least the personal identification information and the medical insurance information prior to the person's arrival at the hospital.

34. (currently amended) A method for handling medical information, comprising the steps of:

storing patient data including personal identification information and medical insurance information for an associated person on a portable personal data device;

providing the portable personal data device to the associated person;

obtaining the personal data device when the person requires medical attention;

reading the personal identification information and the medical insurance information from the personal data device with a mobile data management system and transmitting the personal identification information and the medical insurance information from the mobile data management system to a medical treatment facility

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prior to the person's arrival at the medical treatment facility; and

determining approved medical procedures based on medical insurance coverage for the person, approving the person for admission to the medical treatment facility, transmitting an admission approval response to the mobile data management system, and preparing an admission report including personal identification information and the medical insurance information in advance of the person's arrival at the medical treatment facility to facilitate admission of the patient for treatment at the medical treatment facility.

35. (currently amended) The method of claim 34, further comprising the steps of obtaining the medical insurance coverage information medical-records-associated with-the-person from a-secured-data-storage-area-on the personal data device and transmitting the medical insurance coverage information medical-records to the medical treatment facility prior to the person's arrival at the medical treatment facility.

36. (currently amended) The method of claim 34, further comprising the step of using the medical insurance information read from the personal data device to obtain the medical insurance coverage information from a remote computer using-data-read from-the-personal-data-device-to-access-medical-records-maintained-on-a-secure medical-records-maintenance-system-located-outside-the-personal-data-device prior to the person's arrival at the medical treatment facility.

37. (previously presented) The method of claim 34, further comprising the steps of:

receiving medical device readings from the patient while the patient is located in an emergency transport vehicle in transit to the medical treatment facility;

storing the medical device readings on the personal data device;

transmitting the medical device readings to the medical treatment facility while the patient is in transit to the medical treatment facility; and

including the medical device readings in the admission report.

38. (previously presented) The method of claim 34, further comprising the steps of:

receiving medical treatment information regarding medical procedures administered to the patient while the patient is located in an emergency transport vehicle in transit to the medical treatment facility;

storing the medical treatment information on the personal data device;

transmitting the medical treatment information to the medical treatment facility while the emergency transport vehicle is in transit to the medical treatment facility; and

including the medical treatment information in the admission report.

39. (currently amended) The method of claim 34, further comprising the steps of using the medical insurance information read from the portable personal data device to obtain the medical insurance coverage information, and including the medical insurance coverage information in the admission report.

40. (previously presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the personal identification information read from the personal data device includes a photograph of the associated person, further comprising the step of including a copy of the photograph in the admission report to facilitate proper identification of the patient upon arrival at the medical treatment facility.

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